

# TRESTLE BOARD

April 2026

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064  
(424 273-1054) / <https://www.ioniccomposite.com>



My Brothers,

First, I want to congratulate Bro. Isaac Cruz on being passed to the Fellow Craft degree. The 2nd Degree of Masonry is such a special step in the Masonic journey, as it holds connections that tie many of us to our vocations, interests and impacts of everyday life. And, while there are some very pointed lessons in the 2nd degree, it reminds us to never lose sight of the origins of our various curiosities.

These curiosities have shaped the worlds we've lived in for centuries. The level of curiosities that evolved a planet filled with societies that invoke opportunities and ideas making life more efficient and convenient. For a time, many of these ideas were very much born of Freemasons. And, if you point to a particular moment in time, it seems as if this evolution of ideas came rather exclusively from Freemasons.

I raise this thought with a single question and following mandate for us to ponder...

In this modern world that reveals fresh amazing advances in technology, daily: what are we creating and inventing, to make present and future life easier and joyful — all while infusing and perpetuating the tenets and principles of Freemasonry? As someone who makes a living as a “creative,” I also spend a great deal of time and energy developing tools to improve the lives of other creatives, as well as my own. So many solutions for current problems need discovering every single day that comes upon us. Artificial Intelligence is wiping out the entry-point for so many careers, that people's educations, experiences and trajectories are becoming obsolete by the minute.

I implore us all to take this moment in time to stretch our hearts and minds to innovate tools, utilities and constructs that move and shake the world in positive directions.

Fraternally yours,

Chay Alexander Wright, PM  
Master

## **April Calendar**

### **Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, Stated Meeting**

**Officers attire: dark suits with Ionic Composite necktie (Official photo)**

**7:15 Dinner**

Menu: Sweet salad, Grilled salmon or Sweet and sour beef, Asparagus, Carrots, Butter rolls or Mini focaccias, Cornbread with rompope sauce or Coconut panna cotta

RSVP via the link below:

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/stated-meeting-2/stated-meeting-rsvp/>

**8:00 pm: Meeting (Golden Veteran's Award to Br. Alan Block)**

Ladies' stated meeting activity\*: Game Night

### **Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 pm:**

Officers School of Instruction, Ionic-Composite #520 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, 1<sup>st</sup> section

### **Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>:**

Masonic education/social: Evolving in the Information Age as Freemasons (open to all Masons and prospects)

### **Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>: Dark**

\* An often-cited model of the family life of a Mason is a man (the Mason) trundling off to his weekly stated meeting leaving his wife at home to take care of herself. In an effort to break down this mold, Ionic Composite #520 is now inviting the wives to come to lodge on the evening of our stated meetings, to enjoy the dinners we serve, and then to participate in a separate session designed just for them while the men do their business in the stated meeting. Each month will feature a different topic that should be of interest to women.

## Upcoming events

**May 18<sup>th</sup> – First degree for Avi and Ben Esshaghian<sup>1</sup>**

**May 24<sup>th</sup> – Festive Board Dinner**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – Theater event: Hell’s Kitchen**

<sup>1</sup> These are the sons of a past master of our lodge, Joseph Esshaghian, who currently lives in Israel (see announcement elsewhere in Trestleboard); degrees being performed as courtesy on behalf of Lodge of the Holy City #4 (Jerusalem)

## BRETHREN BEWARE

of scam / phishing emails asking for money or personal information.  
 Scammers are pretending to be Masons, even the Worshipful Master!  
 We’ll never ask you to send money or gift cards via email.  
 Reach out to Lodge Leadership directly or by phone.

2026	Master – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M. (Virian)	Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)
	Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)	Marshal –
	Junior Warden –Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Senior Steward – Kerin Surents, P.M. (Suzanna)
	Treasurer – Aaron Gonzales	Junior Steward –
	Secretary – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Assistant Secretary - Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Musician –
	Chaplain – Robert Smerling (Maureen)	Prospect Manager – Stan Sax (Rikki)
	Senior Deacon – Jacob Gershbock, P.M.	Trestleboard Editor – Ronald Koretz, P.M. (Grace)

# April Birthdays

First name	Last name	Birthdate
Jon	Wax	1
Koorosh	Moshtahedian	3
Misha	Spiegel	3
Andre	Torosyan	3
Marc	Behun	5
Michael	Katz	7
Brandon	Koretz	7
Shahriar	Esshagian	8
Renato	Garcia	9
Luis	Tenanta	10
Simone	Totti	12
Clayton	Jones	13
Cliff	Dorfman	14
Michael	Turner	14
Jeffrey	Bear	16
Hamid	Shooshani	23
Michael	Michael	28
Jack	Rapke	28
David	Harris	30

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally.

---

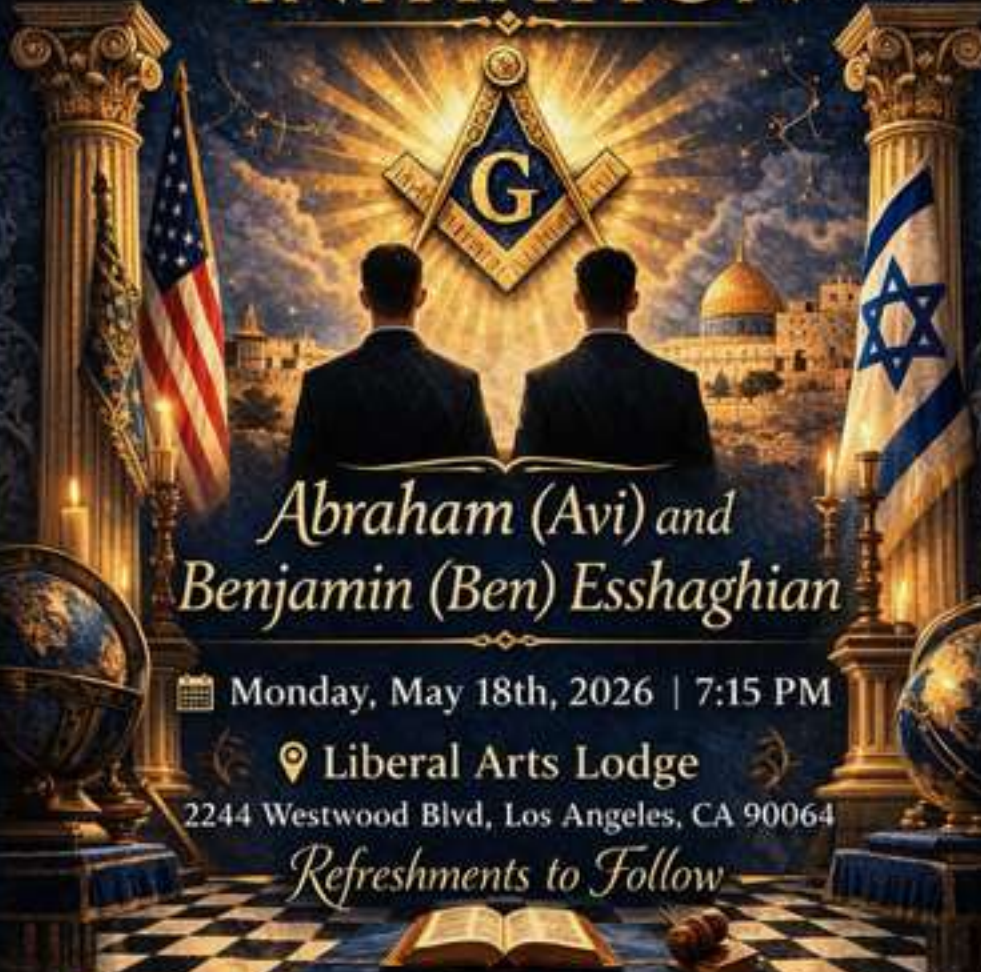
IONIC COMPOSITE No. 520

DOF THE HOLY CITY No. 4



*You are Cordially Invited to the*

# FIRST DEGREE INITIATION



*Abraham (Avi) and Benjamin (Ben) Esshaghian*

Monday, May 18th, 2026 | 7:15 PM

Liberal Arts Lodge

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

*Refreshments to Follow*

**TWO LODGES, ONE BROTHERHOOD**

This will be a Courtesy Degree performed by Ionic Composite Lodge on behalf of Lodge of the Holy City #4, Jerusalem

*United in Freemasonry*

RSVP to [Shahriare@hotmail.com](mailto:Shahriare@hotmail.com)

# *Festive Board*

*A traditional practice of Masonry since its inception is a formal multicourse meal that is conducted after a meeting or as an independent event. Historically the event occurred in a tavern above the lodgehall and represented brotherhood because of the great deal of socialization that occurred between the participants. The formal ceremony includes a number of toasts reflecting the respect Masonry pays to various leaders and institutions inside and outside the craft.*

*Ionic-Composite Lodge #520 will conduct such a festive board on May 24, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM. Its theme will be “Builders of Light: A Spring Festive Board”. The attire will be business suits and cocktail dresses and the cost will be \$65.00 per person.*

*The menu will be as follows:*

*1<sup>st</sup> course – Chicken and vegetable potstickers*

*2<sup>nd</sup> course – Chicken noodle soup*

*3<sup>rd</sup> course – Caesar salad*

*4<sup>th</sup> course – Grilled chicken breast with Marsala wine sauce, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables*

*5<sup>th</sup> course – Beef tenderloin with peppercorn and Merlot wine sauce, garlic mashed potatoes, French cut green beans with roasted almonds*

*6<sup>th</sup> course – New York cheesecake with raspberry sauce*

*Dinner rolls and butter throughout the meal*

**IONIC COMPOSITE LODGE NO. 520**

**2026 GROUP THEATER EVENT**

**We have a block of 16 orchestra seats for**

**Hell's Kitchen**

**Sunday, June 7, 2026**

**6:30 PM**

**\$86/person**

**at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood**

Hell's Kitchen is a jukebox musical built around the music and lyrics of Alicia Keys with a semi-autobiographical plot about her upbringing in Manhattan in the 1990's.

**For information and reservations please contact Bernie Morse, PM at (310) 704-2262 or email [brnhrd18@yahoo.com](mailto:brnhrd18@yahoo.com). Please note that tickets must be purchased by April 2<sup>nd</sup>; those that are not sold have to be returned to the Pantages Theatre.**

# Think About It

**Ron Koretz, P.M.**

A recent disastrous avalanche occurred near Lake Tahoe in February, killing at least eight skiers with a ninth one currently presumed dead as well. Six of these fatalities were mothers who were members of a group of women who frequently went skiing together. They were all on a guided trip into the back country of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. To be appreciated, this was not an unexpected outcome with such skiing expeditions, as they take place in areas which do not contain avalanche control programs that are present at ski resorts.

In an on-line article from the New York Times on February 20<sup>th</sup>, three reporters described the responses to this event in a commentary entitled “As inquiries begin in avalanche deaths, a question emerges: Was anyone at fault?” I was struck by the title because I thought that the avalanche, and not a person, was the problem.

To be sure, there were multiple warnings about a high risk of avalanches that had been released before this group began the trip and even during the time that the trip was in progress. Several experts in snow and ski safety stated that the risk of avalanche events is well recognized. Jeffrey Kaloustian, who is a lawyer specializing in ski-related personal injury cases, did tell the reporters that “avalanches happen with some regularity” and that they are “one of the inherent risks of skiing, even in an organized ski area”. He noted that participants in these excursions typically hire guide services to keep people on the correct route and to conduct ongoing assessments and employ actions that mitigate risks; in this case, the group did hire such a service. In fact, the other fatalities were three of the four guides on this trip.

The reporters did write that the “accident highlights the lack of regulation around backcountry skiing”. A suggested solution to the problem was to close off an entire mountain or national forest when there is a potential threat, but a rescuer commented “there’s no gate big enough or net large enough” to accomplish this. Additionally, access is an important consideration for residents of any affected communities.

One of the experts whom they interviewed told them that, while the participants likely signed liability waivers at the outset, such waivers would not shield the guides from claims of reckless conduct or gross negligence, adding that “this is going to be a really big lawsuit”. It was this last observation that was the basis of my focus on the title of the article, namely why we have to find somebody responsible whenever we have a bad outcome. We all go through life making multiple decisions every day and, at times, those decisions do not turn out as planned. Is it time for people to spend more time taking personal responsibility than finding somebody else to blame?

Think about it.

# *Masonic doings*

**Ionic-Composite #520 providing dinner service at the Midnight Mission on March 15, 2026**



**Participants in Isaac Cruz's Second Degree on March 16, 2026**



## *Dues payments simplified*

The California Grand Lodge has made the process of paying dues simpler, automatic and less painful (especially for those who are dual members or members of concordant bodies). Instead of several lump sums, it can be taken out in increments as shown below. If you need to, please use the format below.

### ***Process Map: How to sign up for AutoPay in iMember 2.0***

Step 1: Access Your Profile

- Action: Log in to iMember 2.0
- Click: My Profile from the dashboard

Step 2: Add a Payment Method

- Click: Add Payment Method
- Enter: Your credit or debit card details
- Save: Your payment information securely

Step 3: Configure AutoPay Settings

- Click: Auto-pay Settings Configure

Step 4: Choose a Payment Interval

- Options:
  - 1) Monthly\* – Charged 15th of each month
  - 2) Quarterly\* – Charged March 15, June 15, Sept 15, Dec 15
  - 3) Annually – Charged Dec 15

Step 5: Confirmation

- AutoPay is now enabled – you'll receive confirmation of your setup.

### ***Why Enroll in AutoPay?***

- Convenience: One-time setup, always in good standing.
- Financial Flexibility: Smaller payments spread over time.
- Peace of Mind: Never miss a due date – it's automatic.
- Stay Current: Be sure to update your credit card information if it expires or changes to avoid avoid any disruptions in your AutoPay setup.

\* Monthly and Quarterly options allow contributions to accumulate over the year, covering your dues in advance without a large single payment.